ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f) and at least partially holds the electrical connector (18a,b; 28a,b; 58a,b).

4. The drive or sensor element as claimed in claim 3, in which the connector (18a,b; 28a,b; 58a,b) is a wire which extends beyond the surfaces of the piezoelectric ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f).

5. The drive or sensor element as claimed in one of claims 3 or 4 having at least three piezoelectric ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f) and at least two grooves (14a-d; 24a-d; 56a-f), in which these grooves (14a-d; 24a-d; 56a-f) are arranged offset with respect to one another and with respect to a longitudinal axis (29) of the drive or sensor element.

6. The drive or sensor element as claimed in one of claims 4 or 5 having a connector (18a,b; 28a,b; 58a,b) which is in the form of a wire and is a wire having a rippled or zigzag structure.

7. The drive or sensor element as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6 having piezoelectric ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f) composed of PZT material.

8. The drive or sensor element as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7 having piezoelectric ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f) composed of $PbMg_{0.308}Nb_{0.617}Ti_{0.075}O_3$.

9. The drive or sensor element as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8 having piezoelectric ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f) composed of a material having a Curie temperature of more than 400°C, for example composed of $Na_{0.5}Bi_{4.5}Ti_4O_{15}$ or Bi_3TiNbO_9.

10. The drive or sensor element as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9 having electrode layers (16a-e; 26a-d) composed of a metallic material having a Curie temperature of more than 400°C.

11. The drive or sensor element as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10 having electrode layers (16a-e; 26a-d) composed of bismuth-titanate.

12. The drive or sensor element as claimed in one of claims 4 to 11 having connectors (18a,b; 28a,b; 58a,b) which are in the form of wires and are composed of a metallic material having high-temperature stability at more than 250°C.

13. The drive or sensor element as claimed in one of claims 4 to 11 having connectors (18a,b; 28a,b; 58a,b) which are in the form of wires and are composed of a material which contains silver and contains stainless steel, or of such a material which contains a nickel alloy.

14. A method for producing an electromechanical drive or sensor element having a layer structure, which comprises the following steps:

- production of ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f) composed of electrically active material using a method which is normal in ceramic technology, having desired dimensions and having a margin of 2-3 mm for each dimension taking account of the following mechanical machining;
- grinding the ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f) until a predetermined thickness of, for example, 0.15 to 03 mm [sic] is reached;

- cutting a groove (14a-d; 24a-d; 56a-f) in one face of the ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 14a-f) which is to be metallized;
-- in which case the depth of the groove (14a-d; 24a-d; 56a-f) must be no deeper than half the thickness of the ceramic layer (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f) under consideration;
- coating at least one face of the ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f) with metal by applying a paste containing silver twice and subsequent heat treatment at a temperature of 800-820°C;
- applying adhesive to the metallized surfaces of two ceramic layers (12a-f; 22a-d; 41a-f) using cellulose adhesive;
- diffusion welding of the layers to which adhesive has been applied by heat treatment at a temperature of 780-800°C and single-axis compression at a pressure of 3-5 kg/cm^2 over a period of 3 hours and cooling to room temperature;
- drawing in each case one connector wire (18a,b; 28a,b; 58a,b) into a groove (14a-d; 24a-d; 56a-f);
- polarization of the drive or of the sensor element by the action of an electric field on the wires (18a,b; 28a,b; 58a,b) at high temperature;
- connection of the same poles of the drive or of the sensor element;
- checking of the desired parameters and piezoelectric characteristics of the drive or of the sensor element.

15. A level limit switch (70) having a drive and having a sensor element as claimed in one of claims 1 to 14.

16. The level limit switch (70) as claimed in claim 15, in which the sensor element is separated from the drive by a non-polarized ceramic layer (82d).

17. An acceleration sensor (40) having a sensor element as claimed in one of claims 1 to 14.